

**United States Bankruptcy Court  
Northern District of Alabama**

**CM/ECF Version 3.1  
Functional Enhancements  
Effective October 17, 2006**

- **PACER LOGIN**

The login screen has been changed to emphasize the differences between CM/ECF and PACER logins.

The Account Information link on the Pacer Service Center's website located at <http://pacer.psc.uscourts.gov> , can be used to specify the following:

- 1) to require/not require a client code;
- 2) define the format of the client code; and
- 3) show or suppress the display of the billing summary or receipt after each billable transaction.

Designation of a default PACER account causes the PACER login process to happen automatically when logging into CM/ECF; however, if a client code has been made mandatory for the default PACER account, the automatic login to PACER will not occur without the client code. If you have not typed a client code on the CM/ECF login screen, the PACER login screen will display when you run a report.

- **CASE OPENING**

**Bankruptcy Cases**

"*Nature of Business*" label has been added above the list of business types.

New business type, *Other*, has been added.

Checkboxes for Types of Business have been replaced by radio buttons.

"*Tax-Exempt Entity*" checkbox replaces "Nonprofit Organization" checkbox and can be selected in conjunction with any type of business.

Defaults for nature of debt, estimated creditors, estimated assets and estimated debts are now *blank* and values *must* either be selected or left blank.

New field has been added to indicate whether there has been a prior *filing within the last 8 years*.

Chapters 11, 12, and 13 now default to yes in the asset field.

Chapters 9 and 15 default to a blank asset field.

Chapter 7 cases default to no in the asset field.

New checkboxes for Chapter 11 cases to indicate if a plan is being filed with the petition and if acceptances of the plan were solicited pre-petition.

Case opening screen for a Chapter 15 filing must indicate whether the case is a *main or non-main* proceeding.

Case Opening will include recording data on assets, liabilities, income and expenses, from the *Summary of Schedules (Form 6)* and the *Statistical Summary of Certain Liabilities and Related Data (28 USC §159)*.

The values for estimated assets and estimated debts have changed. Previously there were 8 categories, now there are *5 categories ranging from \$0 to greater than \$100 million*.

### **Adversary proceedings**

Adversary case opening screen has changed to add the new field, *State Law*; choose yes or no.

Nature of Suit codes have changed to a new two digit code replacing the traditional codes. Some categories are broken out in more specific detail. The new codes appear on the revised B104 Adversary Cover Sheet.

New item, *Role In Bankruptcy Case*, now appears on the screen for defendant/plaintiff party information to designate parties role in the lead Bankruptcy Case.

- **CASE UPLOAD**

Attorneys must upgrade their petition preparation software at the same time the court upgrades to Version 3.1. An attempt to open a case using a pre-Release 3.1 version of their petition preparation software will result in a CM/ECF error message that the case upload is rejected due to using an older version. Likewise, an attempt to upgrade the petition preparation software to be compatible with CM/ECF Release 3.1 before the court has upgraded to Release 3.1 will result in an error message as well.

The format of the statistics record has been changed to include new fields required by BAPCPA. Details can be obtained from the PACER Service Center at: [http://pacer.psc.uscourts.gov/cmecf/developer/case\\_upload.html](http://pacer.psc.uscourts.gov/cmecf/developer/case_upload.html).

- **CREDITOR PROCESSING**

Additional checks are now being made to prevent bad data from being uploaded in the *Creditor Matrix*. Each line must begin with a letter, digit, or one of the following characters: # % & @.

*Editing Creditors:* When a creditor is being edited, a “Review Claim” link appears if that creditor has filed claims (and you have permission for this function).

- **NOTICE OF ELECTRONIC FILING (NEF)**

Previously, any recipient of an NEF was allowed one “free look” of the referenced documents and incurred no PACER charges. Now, **only** participants in the case (parties and attorneys) are given the “free look” while others will be billed.

The NEF is now sent even when the production of notices is interrupted. Although the NEF’s to be emailed are produced before notices, you do not see the display NEF until after the notice production.

Interested parties receiving email are now listed on the NEF (and in the “Mailing Information for a Case” utility) only if they are regular parties in the case

- **NOTICES**

The correct return address for the debtor/plaintiff now appears in all notices.

- **QUERY**

When querying for a case and multiple cases match the query criteria, the date closed for each case is now displayed in addition to the date filed.

- **REPORTS**

A warning is now displayed for Case Reports, Claims Activity Reports and Docket Activity Reports stating they are not subject to the 30-page cap on PACER charges (the exception to the cap already existed but was not apparent).

Case Reports now show the old chapter for converted cases.

A link to the receipt for a claim amendment now appears on the Claims Register even if no document was filed.

The Adversary Proceeding Docket Report now shows the chapter of the related bankruptcy case.

Case Reports and Claims Registers for cases that have been converted or dismissed now display the appropriate labeled date along with the case number at the top of the screen.

- **UTILITIES**

Mailings/Mailing Info for a Case: all attorney email recipients are now listed.

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**Court Information:** A new utility that provides general court information such as the maximum size of PDF files and the court's phone number. A link for this utility also appears on the CM/ECF welcome page.

**NOTE:** The United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Alabama will convert our CM/ECF system to *version 3.1* prior to the required implementation date of October 17, 2006. As with any system change, a notification will be sent to each registered user, prior to the implementation. Should you have any questions, email us at [ecftrain@alnb.uscourts.gov](mailto:ecftrain@alnb.uscourts.gov).